OH.
SHE'S OVER THERE?
OH, GOOD.
CH 22

NO.
NO, NO... WELL,
UH,
SORRY ABOUT ALL THIS.

I'LL COME GET HER,
BUT I'VE GOTTA TALK TO HER FIRST.

Ch. 22 The End of the Affair

Clack
SORRY FOR BARGING OVER LIKE THIS.
YOU'RE WELCOME ANYTIME.
RIGHT, SOUTA-KUN?
ANYWAY, WHAT'S THIS ABOUT DIVORCE!?
D-DON'T TELL ME...
SHUN...
CHEATED ...?
N-
NO, NO, NO, NO, NO!

HUH!?
CAN I TALK TO MAME-SAN ALONE?
UM...
YU, LET'S POP OVER TO THE STORE.
OH!
SURE, OF COURSE.
UM...
WHAT...
YOU SURE YOU WANT TO TALK TO ME?
Clack
WHAT WAS SHUN LIKE?

NICE...
I GUESS?
SHUN WAS...
WELL...
AS A KID, YOU MEAN!?
OH!
!
THOUGH A BIT FOUL-MOUTHED.
BUT THEY'RE NICE PEOPLE.
HE'S REALLY CONSCIENTIOUS.
BOTH HIM AND SOU-CHAN SEEM A LITTLE ALOOF,

GORO-CHAN!!
ANYWAY,
KEEP IT DOWN!
WHAT?
TODAY'S GRADUATION, SO I WANTED TO TELL YOU!
OH!
SORRY
WHAT ?

WAIT.
YOU MEAN LIKE LIKE?
BY LIKE
You think I'm joking!?
OF, OF COURSE!
HUH?
I LIKE YOU.
THAT'S WHAT.
Ha!
GIMME A BREAK!
YOU!?
LIKE ME!?
Bwahahahahahaha

I DID END UP GOING AFTER ALL.

AND PRETENDED LIKE NOTHING HAD HAPPENED.

AFTER ALL, I WAS A CHILD.

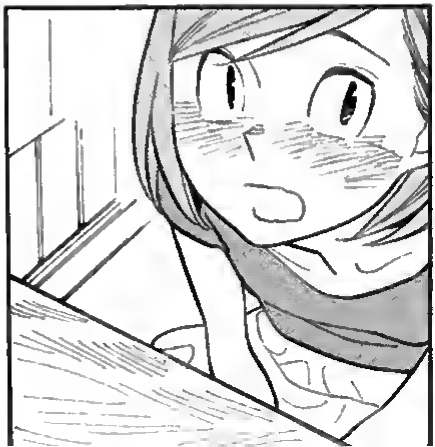
IT WAS JUST A CHILDISH CRUSH BUT IT MADE ME SAD.

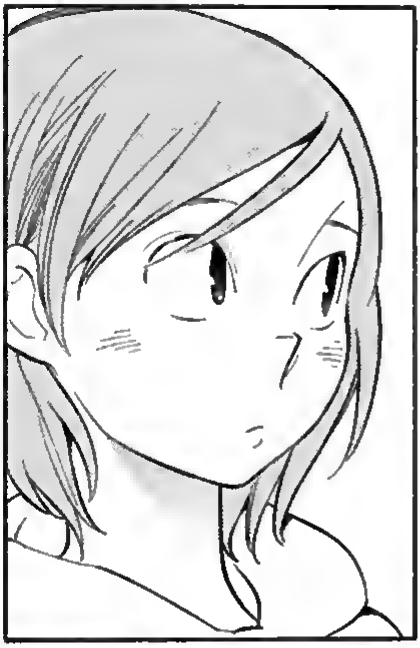
I'D BEEN LAUGHED AT AGAIN AND AGAIN AFTER THAT...

IF...

BUT, BUT...

I DON'T THINK I WOULD HAVE HAD THE COURAGE TO CONFESS MY FEELINGS TO AKAI-KUN.





SO I FEEL
PRETTY
LUCKY

THAT HE
WAS MY
NEXT LOVE

Ding dong

I HOPE THEY DON'T GET DIVORCED.
YEAH.
OH.
I SHOULD PROBABLY GET GOING, TOO.
I'LL WALK YOU TO THE STATION.
HUH!? NO, IT'S OKAY.

WE CAN STOP AT THE STORE AFTER.
YOU JUST WENT TO THE STORE!
A DIFFERENT ONE.
I,
I'M FINE, REALLY!
YOU WANT TO COME, YU?
YEAH.
YOU CAN IF YOU WANT.
I DIDN'T TELL MAME-SAN.
IT'S IN THE PAST.

I DON'T THINK IT'S MY PLACE TO TELL HER YOUR FEELINGS...
YEAH.
I KNOW.
SO I'M NOT GOING TO.
HEY, CHIKA-CHAN...
YOU HUNGRY?
...YEAH.

And all they've got left is croquettes
BUT I REALLY FEEL LIKE FRIED STUFFED LOTUS ROOT SLICES...
HMM...
I THOUGHT I'D JUST GRAB WHATEVER,
24時間営業
みつば
DO YOU MIND IF I MAKE SOME?
WHAT, NOW?
I MEAN...
SURE, BUT...
YOU CAN GET SOMETHING ELSE IF YOU WANT.
Ground meat, ground meat.
...
...
FRYING'S A PAIN, SO MAYBE I'LL JUST GRILL.
NO, IT'S FINE. I'LL HAVE WHAT YOU'RE HAVING.

LOOKS LIKE SHE'S IN A BETTER MOOD.
AKAI-KUN!?
NO WAY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
WAH!
YOUR HAIR!!
IT'S BLACK!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT?
50%
HUH?
I LIVE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD. ALWAYS HAVE.

WOW... WHAT A SURPRISE.
RIGHT!?
Oh, should've introduced her sooner
THIS IS MY WIFE.
WHO?
WHO...?
HUH?
CHIKA-CHAN !?
CHIKA-CHAAAAN !!

WHEN DID YOU DISAPPEAR?
RIGHT AROUND WHEN SHE SAID,
"YOUR EX-GIRLFRIEND MIO-CHAN WAS WONDERING WHAT YOU'VE BEEN UP TO LATELY.
I THINK SHE STILL LIKES YOU."
NO, I THINK SHE DOES.
GUESS SHE DOESN'T KNOW YOU'RE MARRIED.
YOU DIDN'T INVITE HER TO THE WEDDING, DID YOU!?
NO, NO, OF COURSE NOT!
WHAT!?
HUH!?
THEN HOW COULD SHE SAY THAT!?
TH-THAT'S THE SORT OF PERSON SHE IS.

Beeep
I DON'T EVEN CARE ABOUT MY LOTUS ROOT ANYMORE.
SIGH...
DON'T SAY THAT! LET'S MAKE IT!
Together!
Wah!
I'm at my mom's right now and I found a bunch of photos of Shun. I'll bring them over next time
Hi, Chika-chan ♪
IT'S FROM MAME-SAN.
BUT...
IT'S MAME-SAN'S VERY EXISTENCE THAT'S UPSETTING ME.

I'VE GOT TO GROW UP...
I'M JUST JEALOUS.
NO ONE'S DONE ANYTHING WRONG.
I KNOW
LET'S JUST PREPARE IT TONIGHT
AND SAVE IT FOR TOMORROW.
WHY DON'T WE STOP AND GET ONIGIRI OR SOMETHING?
YEAH.
THEN
SURE.

WHAT'S THIS?
YOU'RE HERE AGAIN?
OH...YEAH, SORRY.
YOU SHOULD JUST MOVE BACK.
I JUST HAPPENED TO BE IN THE AREA.
THAT'S ALL.

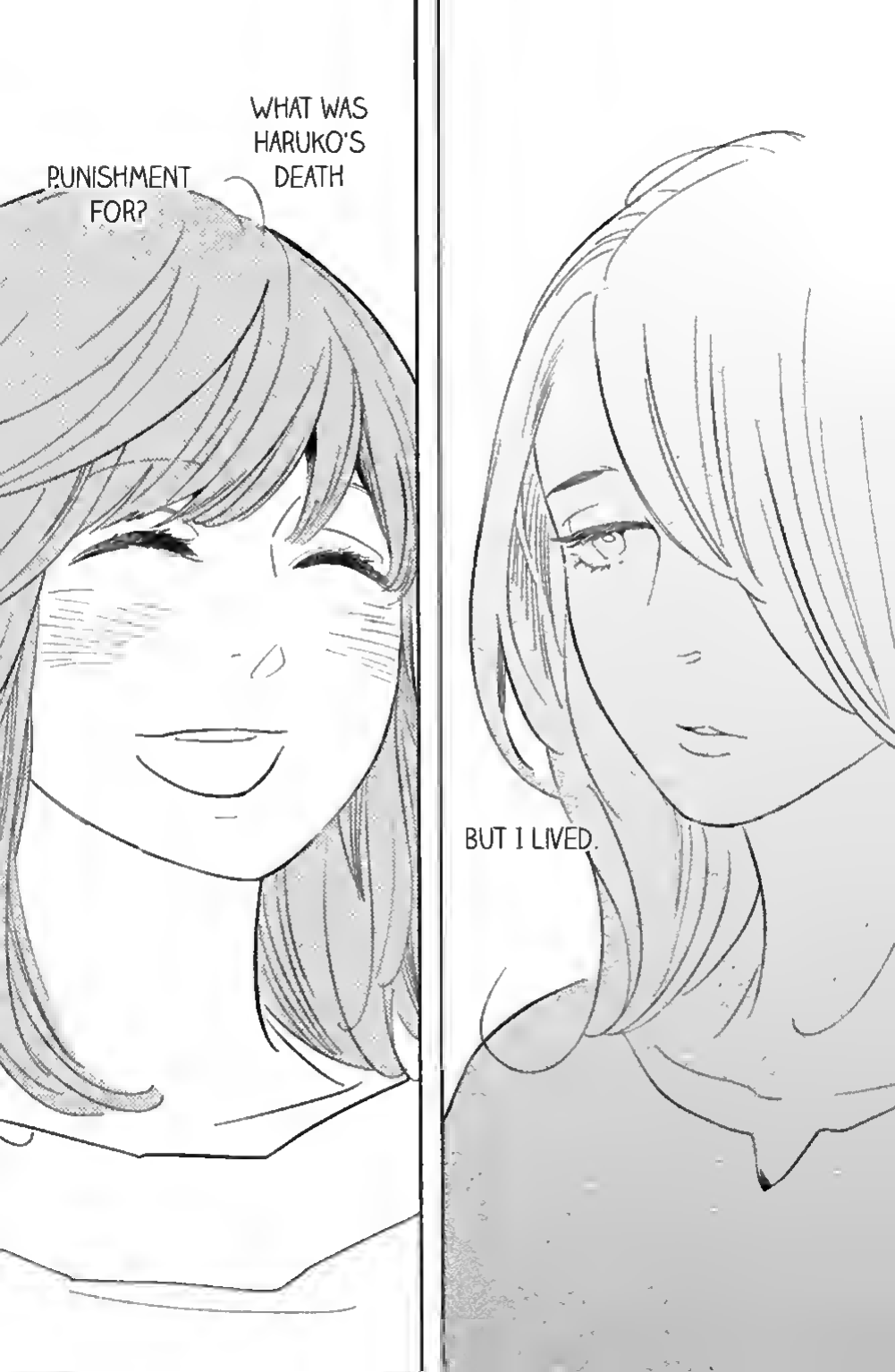
WHAT'RE YOU LOOKING THROUGH THE OLD ALBUMS FOR?
I THOUGHT THERE MIGHT BE SOME PHOTOS OF SHUN HE DOESN'T HAVE.
I WANTED TO GIVE THEM TO CHIKA-CHAN.
CHIKA-CHAN?
OH, *RIGHT*, HIS WIFE.
HEY,
DO YOU WANT A PHOTO OF SOUTA?
IT'S A PRETTY RARE ONE, NOT EVEN HARUKO HAD A COPY.

THIS IS THE ONLY PHOTO I HAVE OF SOUTA.
SOUTA NEVER SHOWED.
ARE YOU ALL PACKED?
YEAH.
THAT'S FOR THE BEST ANYWAY.
I DON'T LIKE TEARFUL GOODBYES.
RIGHT, SENSEI?

I HAVE TO BE WITH MY WIFE.
I CAN'T SEE YOU OFF.
SORRY.
DON'T CRY.
I DON'T LIKE TEARFUL GOODBYES.

WHEN I GOT SHOT IN BRAZIL,
I THOUGHT FOR SURE
I WAS GOING TO DIE LIKE THAT

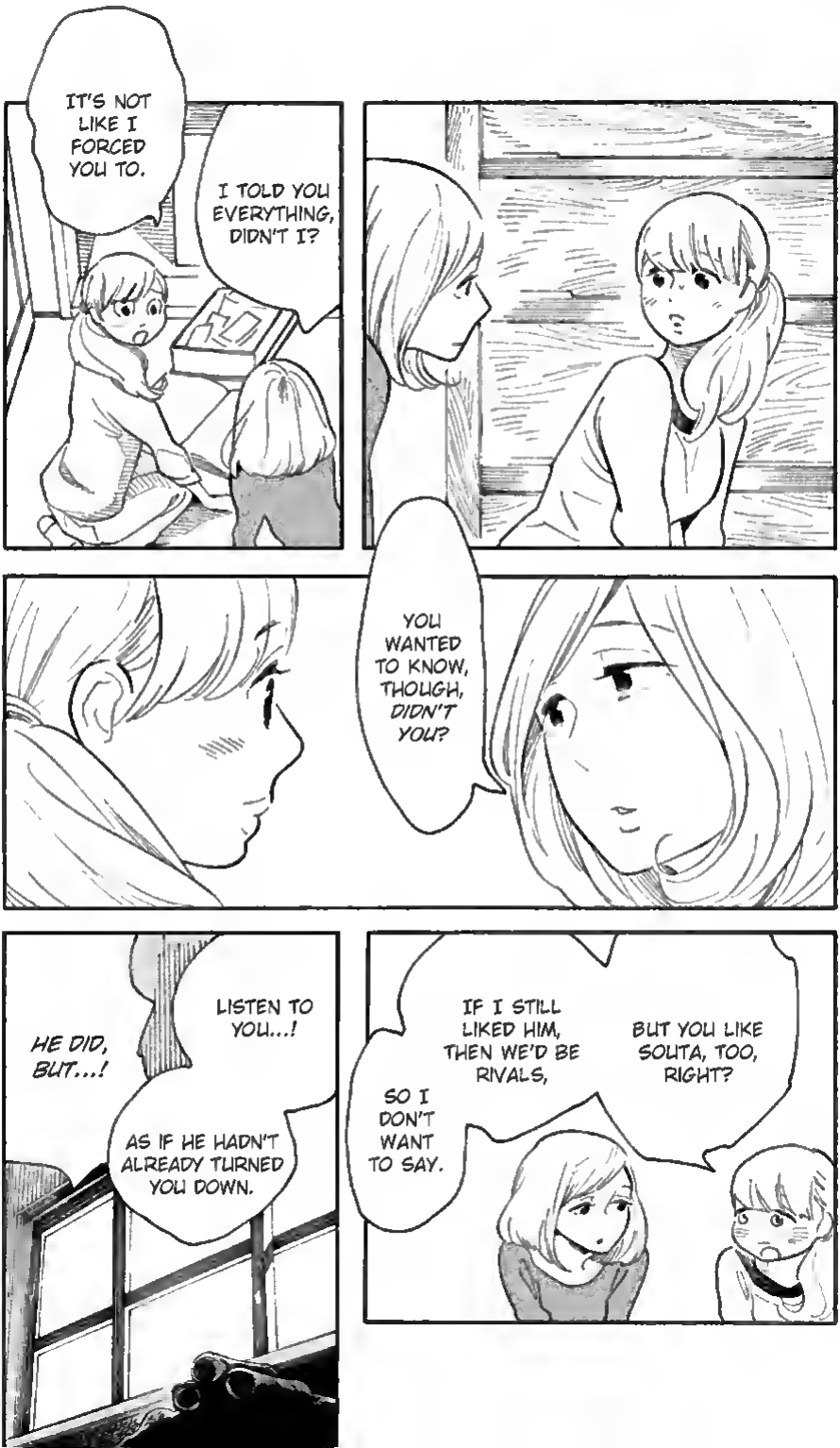
I BETRAYED HIS WIFE.
I BETRAYED HARUKO.
I BETRAYED SOUTA.
THERE'S NOT A SINGLE DROP OF FAITHFULNESS INSIDE ME
AND THIS WAS MY PUNISHMENT.

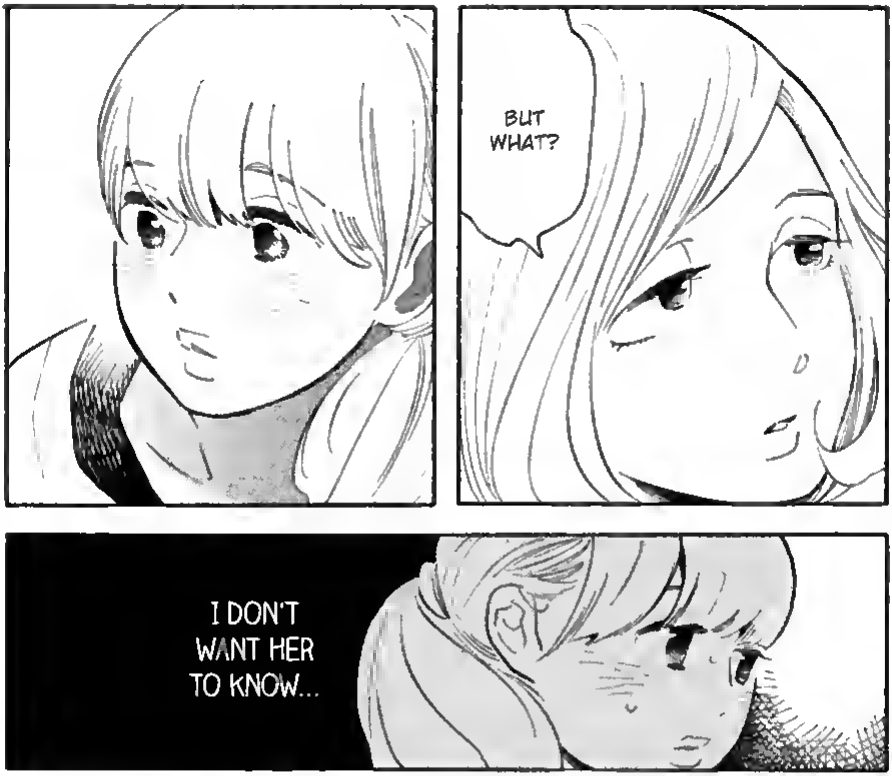

WHAT WAS HARUKO'S DEATH PUNISHMENT FOR?
BUT I LIVED.

Ohara-senpai!?
Hello?
Ohara-senpai...?
...Yeah, Haruko-san...
I can't believe it...
...
...
I MISS SOUTA
I SHOULDN'T, BUT I DO
I'M SORRY, HARUKO

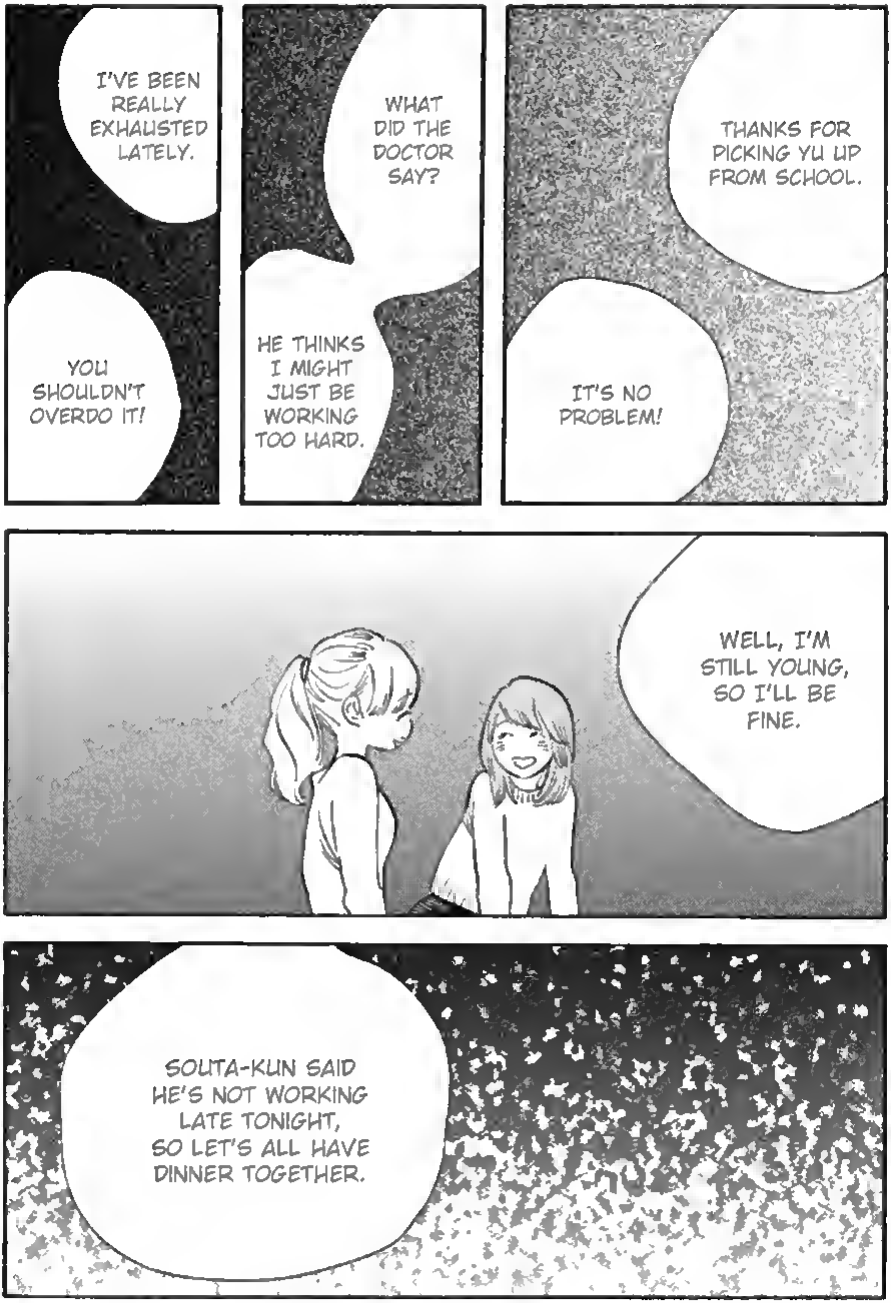
YOU'RE
NOT HERE
ANYMORE.

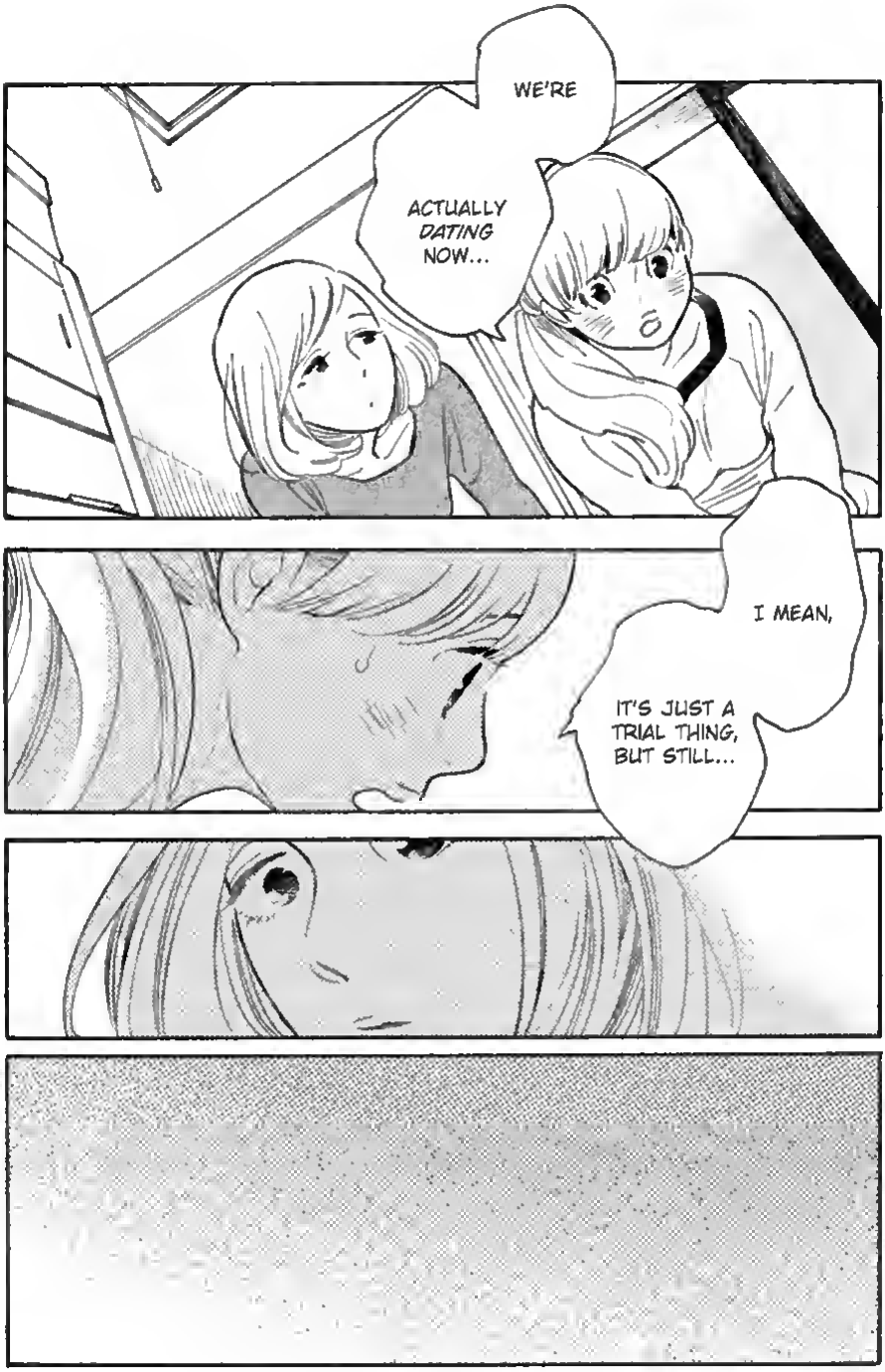
SO,
LIKE...
DO YOU
EVEN STILL
LIKE SOUTA?


IT'S NOT LIKE I FORCED YOU TO.
I TOLD YOU EVERYTHING, DIDN'T I?
YOU WANTED TO KNOW, THOUGH, DIDN'T YOU?
LISTEN TO YOU...!
HE DID, BUT...!
AS IF HE HADN'T ALREADY TURNED YOU DOWN.
BUT YOU LIKE SOUTA, TOO, RIGHT?
IF I STILL LIKED HIM, THEN WE'D BE RIVALS,
SO I DON'T WANT TO SAY.



"MAME-CHAN."


I'VE BEEN REALLY EXHAUSTED LATELY.
YOU SHOULDN'T OVERDO IT!
WHAT DID THE DOCTOR SAY?
HE THINKS I MIGHT JUST BE WORKING TOO HARD.
THANKS FOR PICKING YU UP FROM SCHOOL.
IT'S NO PROBLEM!
WELL, I'M STILL YOUNG, SO I'LL BE FINE.
SOUTA-KUN SAID HE'S NOT WORKING LATE TONIGHT, SO LET'S ALL HAVE DINNER TOGETHER.


WE'RE
ACTUALLY
DATING
NOW...
I MEAN,
IT'S JUST A
TRIAL THING,
BUT STILL...